

Executive Message—Vetoing S. B.
No. 38.

Governor's Office.

Austin, Texas, Feb. 21, 1921.

To the Texas Senate:

Senate Bill No. 38 provides for the creating, establishing and maintaining of a State Tuberculosis Sanatorium for Negroes. For this purpose the bill carries an appropriation of \$300,000.00. It authorizes the purchase of one thousand acres of land, on which to build the sanatorium. The location is to be selected by a committee. The State at this time has a splendidly equipped sanatorium located in West Texas. If this sum of money is to be invested for this purpose, it seems to me the part of wisdom that the sanatorium should be established, by law, in close enough proximity to the State Tuberculosis Sanatorium now owned and operated by the State to permit the use of the same light plant, same sewer system, same laboratory, same research work, same superintendent and doctors and many mutually helpful things that could be used in common, and yet not have the two institutions close enough together to be objectionable. To illustrate: The State has recently spent \$25,000 in building a heating plant for the State Tuberculosis Sanatorium, and I am advised by those who know that the capacity of this heating plant is ample to supply an institution twice the size of the one now being operated. The State is also at this time spending \$6,000 in establishing a bakery at this Tuberculosis Sanatorium, and it can also be used in connection with the hospital contemplated by this bill. These two illustrations are but suggestive of the useless expenditure of money in the construction of exactly the same kind of agencies to be used in similar institutions located in different places. On investigation, I find that a tubercular sanatorium the size provided for in this bill can easily be cared for by the machinery of the one now owned by the State, should this institution be located near the present tubercular sanatorium. The State has located eleemosynary institutions for

negroes near enough to similar institutions for white people as to operate both by the same machinery, and it has proven entirely satisfactory. By using this tubercular unit already owned, the State could easily care for twice as many negroes with half the money. I have visited and am familiar with an up-to-date tuberculosis sanatorium of another State, and there is nothing expensive about the treatment of the disease, except the construction of the working plant. Texas already owns and operates a working plant of sufficient size that it can be used for the purpose of this bill with but little additional cost. The State should not unnecessarily duplicate its work. This is no time for spending money that way. This sanatorium when completed will care for only one hundred patients. To build this institution to care for these one hundred patients will cost the State close to a half million dollars. This is entirely too much money to spend for the small number of patients accommodated. I am in favor of taking care of those mentioned in this bill provided it is done efficiently and economically, but to spend this vast sum of money just to get ready to care for one hundred patients, which would not materially change the present condition of affairs, seems to me unwise. This amount of money, however, spent in connection with the tubercular plant now operated by the State, would guarantee to the negro patients the very best climatic conditions, medical skill, and scientific treatment, which would be difficult if not impossible to obtain under the provisions of this bill, and would accomplish the laudable purposes of this legislation and I would be glad to give my approval to such a measure.

For reasons stated, and in view of the present unsettled and disturbed financial conditions of the country, and thinking of the heavy appropriations that must be made for the upkeep of our institutions already established and to be established, I deem it judicious and wise to return this bill with my veto and disapproval.

Yours sincerely,
PAT M. NEFF,
Governor.